

DOLL TALK

FOR . . .
COLLECTORS

Volume 13, Number 5

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A JOLLY ROGER DOLLY

For some reason, pirates, despite their reputation for villainy and dark deeds, have managed an aura of romance and high adventure that has fashioned fortunes for writers of fiction, not to mention a million thrilling day dreams for small boys the world over. Such fascinating and not entirely unsympathetic rascals as Capt. Hook, Long John Silver and even bold Sir Henry Morgan have combined to make the career of a buccaneer seem almost acceptable and it is in the same spirit of derring-do that we offer our contribution to the free-booting ranks in Pegleg, the pirate.

He is the loving handwork of Miss Parthenia Fitch under her trade name of Parcraft. All hand-made at her studios in Wisconsin and in her own words, "I couldn't have put any more work into him if I'd charged you twice the price." This is easily apparent in Pegleg's appearance, complete even to a skull and crossbones flag on his platform base. As is always the case in such artistic hand-mades, no two dolls are exactly alike but all are 11 inches

tall with individually modeled hands and faces. He looks every inch the villain, too, with long black hair and mustache, black patch over one eye, brass earrings and lips drawn back to show white teeth in a wolfish snarl. His costume is authentic appearing with battered tricorn hat over silk print scarf, open throat shirt, gaudy sash, knee breeches and coat trimmed in braiding. Other accessories include crutch and peg leg, pirate flag and a large brown sea chest filled with treasure!

We think you will find him an irresistible scamp as well as a collection worthy American craft doll. You might even decide to add of your own to his chest but beware mateys, Pegleg's not a man to be trusted with your family jewels! No. 32, \$12.50.



"The Doll Primer, together with the many little nuggets scattered throughout the **Doll Talk** pages are a source of many valuable additions to my looseleaf notebook."

—Marian B. Howard, Fla.

GOOD NIGHT NURSE!

And what do I collect? Oh, good costume jewelry, old children's books and handkerchiefs, once in a while a fan, but mostly our hobby is collecting customers. That's the reason we Kimport grown folk can't afford the luxury of collecting dolls; those customer friends take precedence. Your want lists, those preference sheets, and the voiced appreciation of your receiving dearly desired dolls is stimulus and "happiness enou."

Sometimes we think of "grand divisions" as well as of grand customers, and the group responsible for these few rambling paragraphs is the sisterhood of nurses, night nurses, in particular. Why, one fine evening we personally delivered to nurse Joan Bast, Kansas, a fine bisque baby, and in the maternity ward it was, properly scheduled during Joan's coffee break!

And Doll Talk, I'm sure, has printed some stories and quotes from the admitted apologetically long letters of energetic nurses-aide, Blanch Reeves, California. She is another 'honey' who gets her heart strings so tangled up with their tiny, cuddly, incubator and crib babies, that one would have to stretch her imagination to understand the encompassing love and eager interest Miss R. puts into her doll hobby!

And finally, for the funny engine which started this train of thought, a story from Cee Cee Quiel, Ohio. It was penned about 4 a.m.—“patient sleeping, so I read, write, sew, preferring the quiet night hours to day work.”

This story, she admits, gives her a couple of chuckles, one for the nurse and one for the doll collector, Mrs. Q., of course, being both. It concerns her almost life-size Hospital Chase lady doll, and reads:—

"Mrs. Chase came to me because she was no longer of use, and of all places, I found her after the war in so-called Army Surplus. Somehow she had not reached the Wacs, but found her way among men, and what stories I'll bet this young lady could tell! We had pranksters who put her to bed, while they went A.W.O.L. at night. Once, I, on such duty, almost gave her a shot in the hip! And oh, yes, another time, Mrs. C. was left sitting in the parked car during a dinner party, etc. That time the patrol car finally stopped to investigate. Was the lady left pouting, ill or dead? Exit, two red-faced cons!"

ODD ITEMS

In a new book just out called, **Meeting With Japan**, the strange mixture of the modern and ancient in Japanese beliefs is described. For instance, "there is a famous Buddhist patriarch of the Sixth Century, A.D. named Daruma-san, who lost his legs as the result of remaining motionless for eight years while engaged in meditation. He is represented in the shape of an almost egg proportioned doll. You buy him "blind," that is to say without eyes. If business is good you paint in one eye and later you paint in the other. If business is bad you leave him blind as a punishment."



SPUNKY

"Spunky" is the fightin' word name which Ida May Staples calls her belligerent little brain child. Adopted or "chosen children" have just as many grandmothers back in the limbo as does the new Duke of York. Of course, Ida May does admit that she found an "old celluloid or something"—bab'y head with some junk. Naturally this head was unhappy, squalling lustily but with no fists nor feet to let fly!

Being artistic and venturesome, the founding head was poured full of something for a basic model, various new wrinkles and squints added and all the proper rehabilitating done to sculpture that basic model into "Spunk." We never do pry into a doll maker's secrets, but here are the results bundled into one of the cunningest, cryingest baby dolls for which one could wish! Material of hands and 2½ inch high head (8 inch circumference) is porcelain bisque, smooth as any aristocrat could wish. Properly shaped infant body finishes him 10 inches long; costume, one flanalette diaper, po-

ka dotted on Spunky B., which stands for Brown. Yes'm, that pink bellowing baby was such a beautiful piece of work—such good ears, open-closed mouth, suggestion of modeled curls 'n' all—he was just too cute for a single! You'll be proud to own one—twins—or assorted. Spunky, No. 176W, \$17.50, or Spunky, No. 176B, \$17.50.

AND SO—BACK TO KIMPORT

Mrs. H. D. Preston of Illinois made a delightful tour last summer, but like so many travelers, came back nearly empty-handed so far as dolls were concerned. Oh there were many available in shops and bazaars and by street vendors, but we are all weight watchers when it comes to our luggage.

"On our way to the Middle East and the Holy Lands this summer, we stopped at Shannon, Ireland, to re-fuel, and I found a little leprechaun in the airport toy shop. But he isn't Christmasy like the one in *Doll Talk*, so I would like that one, too. We saw a number of veiled women in the United Arab Republic, but in Egypt I didn't find one doll to bring home, so I would also like No. 274. I am so happy to know the meaning of the blue bead among the ornamental nose beads, as explained in *Doll Talk*."

Kimport is proud when it can please world travelers, and so often is able to save weight and worry by supplying dolls by mail. Foreign source to Kimport to American Collectors: That's a handy triangle of service!

LATE ARRIVALS

Betimes we do get extra solicitous regarding you whose dolls have crowded their allotted space to overflowing. An inactive hobby does lose verve, so here are some miniatures that will fit into even the most jam-packed of doll cabinets!

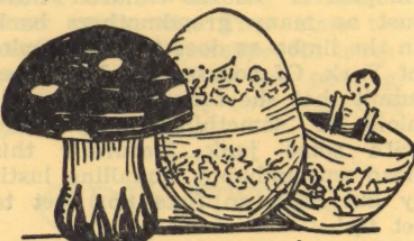


Sevi, the Italian firm that specializes in unique small woodens, has provided us with tiny Pinocchio for over a decade. He is an impish looking little rascal with that long "liar's" nose, red suit and peaked cap, round black eyes,

all in 2½ inch size. No. 764, 35c.

Our newest imports from the Sevi line are perfectly adorable, three inch trinket boxes, all wood and hand enameled in doll form, as pictured. They come in varying pretty tints and styles, such as Colonial dame, girl with flower, May Day Queen, but each so cunning that all are favorites. The upper half of the doll forms the lid which lifts off revealing a hollow interior to the full skirt forming the trinket box and base of the doll. No. 755, \$1.25 each.

Ballerina tops, only 1 inch tall, spin giddily at a flick of your fingers. Hand painted in a variety of colors, No. 759, half a dozen (6) for \$1.00.



Easter is the ideal season for giving one inch size wooden eggs, each brightly painted, with a swaddled half-inch bambino fitted inside. No. 754, 75c.

From jolly Jamaica come the happiest new miniature pair of native islanders, made of yarn over bendable frames, his hat and her braided basket of fiber. A safety pin is attached to the back so they can be worn as a pin on hat, handbag or blouse. Scant two inches tall with painted features, they come pinned to a white card that says, "Souvenir, Hand-made in Jamaica." All are bright

and artistic in a variety of colors. No. 271, \$1.25 the pair.

While on the subject of dolls that can be worn, let's not forget that silvery Fashion Doll pin in 1½ inch size, made by a New England creator of costume jewelry. Well detailed in bas-relief, her modeled costume would be post Civil War era. The pin itself has a safety catch. No. 37P, \$1.25 each.



An unusual vocation is minutely pictured in the Indian Snake Charmer. Eight inches tall, in a kneeling position, this Hindu entertainer is accurately made, all cloth, and extremely lifelike. He even comes complete with strange wooden flute and wicker basket containing an evil looking rubber cobra. No. 655, \$5.95.

That rare combination of class and character makes our Danish dolls a must for your special foreign group. In 8 inch size, both have wonderfully modeled composition heads, smiling faces full of fun and life, a certain air of

friendliness and good cheer. The elderly white haired postman, very official in red and black uniform with black buttons, can't conceal the twinkle in his eye although it belies his serious position. No. 951, \$12.50. Matching Fishwife with merry face and rosy cheeks is equally hard to resist as she holds up a large sample of her wares for your inspection. Neatly dressed in brown bodice, checked apron, olive green skirt with red edging and white headscarf. She is No. 951A, \$13.00.

American Indian dolls are a vanishing folk art, but fortunately after sheep shearing season each year, the Navajo tribe of Arizona and New Mexico lends an effort to producing a limited number of dolls, of hand loomed fabrics and other handicrafts. Once again, we have been fortunate enough to obtain some of these, clean, popular and authentic Indian dolls. Well made in 9 inch size, of cloth with flat brown faces and brightly colored clothing in a variety of rich shades, cotton and velvet, they also sport simulated silver belts and beaded necklaces. Man, No. 738B, and Woman with squash blossom hair-do. No. 738C, just \$2.25 each.

To close on a tiny note, as we began, we offer No. 362, a miniature Mexican Boatman from the famous Floating Gardens of Xochimilco. His 3½ inch long boat is covered with brightly lacquered seedpods to form his assortment of fruit and flowers. The vendor and skipper himself, 1½ inches tall, is standing in the prow with pushing pole in hand. All wood construction, just \$1.00.

BELATED THANKS

In the last issue of Doll Talk, we printed an excellent article on "French Dolls" and asked information about its author. This letter from Mrs. W. Lee Weadon in Connecticut places proper credit:

"Just received your January-February Doll Talk, and I am sure you will be flooded with mail giving you the name of the author on 'French Dolls.' Inasmuch as Bella Donna is mentioned in the article and she has been in my collection for many years, may I inform you that this was written by Mrs. Estelle Winthrop, 685 East Street, Dedham, Massachusetts. It was sent to all members of Doll Collectors of America, Inc., many years ago, and I still have my copy. Do give Estelle credit for her fine research of many years ago."

We are sure the printing of this article will be helpful to many collectors. Though originally written and distributed years ago, the subject has great current interest and is right up to date in its correct information.

Now, we have a delightful letter from Mrs. Estelle Winthrop herself. She says:— "Doll Talk came to me this morning and imagine my surprise—and amusement—to find on Page 2 an article on French Dolls which I had written for a talk I gave to the 'Doll Collectors of America' some time in—I think the late thirties! I shall never know who sent it to you, for I did not, but whomever did send it evidently did not send in the title page which had my name. I wrote it quite a while ago and since then I've learned more

about the subject and would do it rather differently.

"I think your Doll Primer is a fine idea—I'm strong for 'capsule information'!"

"SHERLOCK" VIA "HOBBIES"

In last month's Doll Primer, the call went out for a Sherlock Holmes to interpret the initials, S.G.D.G., appearing on so many French dolls. Here is the response from Mrs. F. B. Brinkley of Virginia:

"A couple of weeks ago, while looking in back files of Hobbies magazine, I came upon an article, 'Notes on French Dolls,' by Mrs. Ruth Rassner. The following is a paragraph from that article:

"Doll book authors and doll collectors alike have been baffled for many years by the meaning of the letters, 'S.G.D.G.' printed on the heads and bodies of some French dolls. I am happy to say that these letters mean, 'Sans Garantie du Gouvernement.' Since under the French Patent System, unlike ours, no preliminary search is made, as to the novelty of the invention or the priority of the patent, the French Patent Law requires that the word 'Brevette' (patented) when used on a doll, be accompanied by these letters, 'S.G.D.G.' This article appeared in the July 1955 issue of Hobbies."

Thanks, Mrs. Brinkley, for this information and thanks, Mrs. Rassner, for the original article in Hobbies magazine, giving this valuable clue. We are always appreciative of course to Hobbies for its valuable data on dolls that has done so much to promote intelligent collecting.



What memories of days long gone, of winter tales told 'round grandmother's sleek base burner or by great-grandmother's wide fireplace—Ah, what remembrances return when fondling some silent but wise looking old, beloved doll! Around our Kimport shelves there come and go many an antique one from the era when eager America surged westward. There had been the black interlude of Civil War, but once again the normalcy of building, moving, expanding, swelled into the mighty tide that made us The New World.

On several preference sheets sent in to us, "Dolls that were played with" has been specified. So, first a big, high glazed, old highbrow china head, a beauty 25 inches tall; deep shouldered, perfect,—head alone is 7 inches with all the top credentials—modeled eyelids, pink lines above eyes, and little circle nostrils, white highlights in her Victorian blue eyes and knobby curls with sharp comb marks. China arms are a replacement, but embroidered shoes of purple challis would date with the vertical curl head, to back around 1860. She came West to Kimport from a New Hampshire auction, dressed in queer purple dotted wool that resembles scrim. No. A214, \$55.00

And one more of the long-time favored china heads, an 11 inch blond bride; rather slender adult face; made after 1891 as "Ger-

many" is stamped into her shoulders. Almost peach tint hair, brown brows and lashes, high glazed legs with blue bow garters, dull white arms but all original, 2½ inch head. Sweet China silk bridal gown with insertion rows and silk lace edging around the bouffant skirt; nice undies and the veil which is a fresh replacement but of old silk illusion. No. A81, \$17.50.

Working backwards to woodens, papier-mâches and even one early, played-with wax head—well, let's take her first. Definitely a one of her kind, all hand made dolly, 7½ inch size; the torso and legs copy the peg joint type, leather arms, head fashioned probably of a mix, candle with beeswax. Certainly original dress and under-garment; probable date around 1820, she has been so cherished that there is still a smug, sweet smile on her penned in features. No. A201, \$18.00.

Missie Jack-in-a-Box is 6 inches tall when the lid pops open. Plump, waxed hands and head with brown blob porcelain eyes; the rest of her anatomy is a coil spring, dressed in bluing blue print cotton under quite a lace trimmed apron—cap to match: Box, about 4 inches square is bedecked with almost two dozen embossed cutouts and color prints—surely was a well kept toy from eighty years ago. No. A319B, \$24.00.

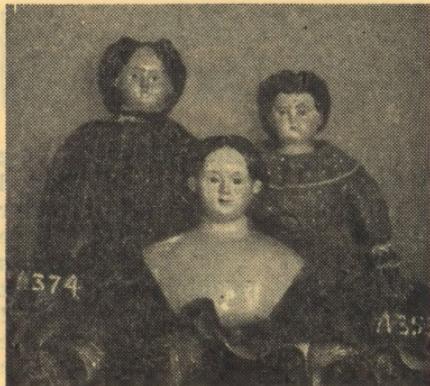
A pair of even older toys, 6 inch waxed gentlemen in fancy but moth eaten suits of red and green were figures in some game. One leg of each is pegged to fit into the board and there's a linen cord which pulls to activate a

cricket bat, held in each leather right hand. Their feather trimmed postillion hats are precious, shading their pinhead size jet eyes. Circa 1800, No. A355, both dolls reduced to \$37.50 for the pair.

Papier-mache classes as a composition, but compositions are far from all being papier-mache. "Sister Clotilde's" serene, blue eyed head is papier-mache, on its original, hand-sewn and shapely rigid body of pink kid leather. Nine inches tall, her habit of serge and linen is authentically styled of course, and barely a stitch big enough to be seen! How she must have been honored in some little French child's fine family of dolls. No. A387, in splendid condition, circa 1840's, \$65.00

One glass eyed little composition, then those three American made, labeled Greiners. "Biddy" with her rounded out, "threaded" blue eyes, angora wig and plump, pugnosed face is such a convincing li'l person. Twelve inches tall, composition arms and legs and cambric body, seemingly hair stuffed. Quaintest old nondescript clothes with her bonnet crown and skirt fashioned from moss green woolen, all scalloped and punch cut like an oldfashioned clock shelf cover draped up in my memory, someplace. All original it seems and dating around 1875, No. A315, \$20.00.

Greiners went west in covered wagons. Someway these compositions, re-inforced with cloth, seem staunchly pioneer with Yankee background rather than ladies belonging south of Mason Dixon Line. Three different models pictured.



"Electra" unretouched, is 25 inch size, head No. 8, is 7 inches tall, with '72 extension label. Many different bodies were concocted to use with patent Greiner heads. This one, hair stuffed, is interesting, stamped back of the knees, "J. Lacmann's Patent, March 24, 1874." Made-on blue leather shoes are worn, and there are peculiar modeled hands covered with the same twill cotton of which the patent body is made. Some owner must have practiced making button-holes, twelve of them, from neck to hem, each for its own brass button! No. A374, \$85.00.

"Arabella" is really almost as tall, but more slender; has perhaps the prettiest of all Greiner hair styles on her "No. 6" head; that size is included on her perfectly preserved Greiner label, with its '72 extension. Bright blue eyes, no retouching on her 6½ inch high, strengthened composition head. Old blue calico dress; worn and probably original cloth body with red leather shoes made right onto the legs, and brown leather arms with stitched fingers. A353, \$80.00.

Greiner head only will make such a "classic" and imposingly large lady, oh, 28 to 30 inches tall. In beautiful condition, her "covered wagon" hair-do brushed up over the ears. "No. 10" is on her 1858 patent label. 8½ inches high, this head shows the linen layer, covered by Greiner patent, the most clearly of any we have examined. No. A373, \$75.00.

The next two, Beloved Betsy and Pooh Bear, were in our Independence Library, Christmas exhibit of Toys of Yesterday . . . Beloved Betsy is a 14 inch rag bodied, metal headed girl with inset teeth and threaded eyes. Extra heavy metal, scuffed a bit in the enamel but undented; marked "Pat." it seems, but we think pre-Minerva. Original clothes are black stockings, white on blue pin-dot cotton frock and yellowed-with-age panties. No. A254, \$8.50

Pooh Bear as ye devotees of Christopher Robin will know, has humpy back shoulders, quite a nose or snout and looks every inch (this one is 23 inches) the wise companion he was. Ice green glass eyes with big dark pupils, one front paw has to wear a cotton mitten; once a pale lavender, Pooh's wooly coat has been caressed smooth in spots and is gray with thirty plus years. We know, because this one went to that Library show from our own cedar chest. No. A343, \$8.50.

Because Margie, a 24 inch English doll traveled via too, too hot transit, she's a mark down 'way below cost. If you have wanted a doll of poured or solid wax (head, arms and legs) original hair stuff-

ed body and yes, inset blond hair, maybe Margie is for you. Looks like her brows had been inset. Her wax head, with big blue threaded eyes, is very pink complexioned. Maybe she still blushes at the memory of having been smoothed and mended into the chubby child that she is, even though her nose and chin may never be sharply profiled again. Probably by Marsh instead of Montanari, she did check in at \$100.00, but now, No. A112, \$42.50. Her old handmade frock is darling!

Loved, we know, by someone, is this next, slim, 13 inch doll, because her finely knitted outfit was deserving of someone really rare. We seldom put the clothes-cart before the doll-horse BUT an eight piece outfit in pale gold and turquoise zephyr, knitted on hairpin size needles, deserves top billing. Sweater and shorts, cape, cap, mitts and strap-under leggings with loops up their sides—quite amazing! The doll is unusually long bodied composition with swivel head fitting into the top; closed mouth, dark brown eyes with no pupil, real hair with nice curls down the back. Some mends in the knitting—circa 1880's, No. A409, \$13.50.

In our '59 Christmas Card booklet from Lillian Smith of Humpty Dumpty, one old wood-cut really thrilled us. "Merry Old Santa Claus" by Thomas Nast, who started illustrating for *Leslie's Weekly* in 1855. Nast's lasting fame was assured though by his powerful Civil War drawings while staff artist for *Harper's Weekly*. All right, so that was a "Tangent" But—in that Nast Santa's armload of toys, most prominently displayed is a

basic (undressed) Japanese baby doll. Kimport has had several through the years, queer looking slant eyed infants with inset eyes, pierced nostrils, swivel neck papier-mache head onto a top torso section. Lower legs and arms and the hip and thigh section are also composition with cloth fill-in for chest and the four upper limbs. Big toe is always separated from the group of four others, ears are large, smiling little mouth not cut open on the little 8 inch one currently at Kimport. Clean cloth parts were substituted, but his tiny halo of fur fringe hair is original. 'Sure cute'—No. A312, \$12.50.

Since this D.T. tells about several miniatures in "Late Arrivals" we'll do likewise here. One always has room to pose a few tiny ones in front of others on the shelves, but first, a fully jointed wooden of very early 19th century dating that deserves to be encased in a locket or a brooch. Only 1¼ inches of jewel-like perfection, high glaze, eight peg joints, cherry pink slippers, dear little features; original ribbon frock. No. A149. \$18.00.

Of certified Georgian, late 18th century, are four tuck-comb peg woodens, fantastically elaborate as to costume, in excellent condition considering that they are good century and a half old—and all reduced in price. Oxford Graduate, 3 inch size, precious from weighted base to mortarboard cap, is No. A601G. \$30.00.

Oriental Potentate, scant 3 inches, in antique silks, of course. No. A601P. \$30.00

Two and a half inch Naval Officer in blue with buttons 'n' braid, No. A601N. 27.50.

And Palace Guard, same size, also with sword, epaulets and proper headgear, No. A601S. His nice dress uniform is gorgeous but looks like the face is retouched, so now, \$25.00. These were all originally \$35.00 each, parts of a set of chessmen from a museum in England.

About 4 inches tall, pink French bisque doll of Frozen Charlotte type has palms extended and up as if in blessing. Dressed in faded felt, perhaps a penwiper, into the sweetest little Catholic sister with crucifix, etc., including a whopping big "God's Geese" bonnet in creamy white. Came from France, No. A392. \$10.00.

And for last, a couple of high glazed china Frozen Charlottes, undressed, 4½ and 4 inches tall, yet very different. The girl is perfect, the ordinary wide head type of the 1870's; black hair and blue dot eyes, slender with arms well out from body, socks and slippers indicated, but all white. No. A290, \$8.25. The boy a trifle shorter but much plumper, is a collector item of thin, fine porcelain with carefully modeled ears, upper eyelids, stipple edged hair, brown eyebrows and lashes, arms well out from body, round kneecaps, navel, all perfect except a bit of chipped bare toes. But—he can whistle! Yes, there's a perfect little circle on top his head—blow across it and it sounds like the train was a comin'! Circa 1860. No. A95. \$28.00.

"The little old doll with the flower print body is precious. Did you know it even smells like flowers? It must be filled with satchet."

—Mrs. Roy Rutledge, N. D.

THOSE HEATHEN CHINEE!

Arvilla Sweeney, who loves to create dolls, dug up this ancient recipe, but since there wasn't even a water buffalo around her Oregon Doll Hospital—why—Arvilla has not mixed up a single batch!

"From China, here is the original formula for doll mending, called 'Shio Lao': Slaked powdered lime, 54 parts; powdered alum, 6 parts; strained ox blood, 40 parts. Many sacred dolls and emblems exposed to the weather become waterproof with this old time formula."

OPERATION DOLL BABY

Virginia Dawson sent down from Canada a bit of doll story from their magazine *Saturday Night*, as of Dec. 1959. Therein Mr. Anthony West was telling about current Christmas gift news, including quite a blurb about one new doll. This was the toy that was designed for maladies and accidents complete with crutches, casts and even transfer blotches for measles and other rashes, removable of course after due time for recovery had elapsed!

We thought "shades of ancient Chinese Doctor Dolls and other such scientific historicals," but the one of which Mr. W. was reminded was—"I've seen a Victorian doll from England, dressed all in white satin with a greenish wax face, who came in a little satin-lined coffin. But the sick doll is not a rarity, as that extraordinary object was. She is a mass produced object for whom a big sale is expected."

WE'LL WAIT

In sending a *Doll Talk* renewal, Mrs. W. T. Green of Texas added this memo: "Our sizeable family of dolls, standing serenely throughout a ten room house, will probably have to go into retirement shortly. On July 27, a husky son was born to my daughter; our Spaniel, always devoted to her, has taken on the baby as an added responsibility. Currently, no one is interested in dolls, but I know I'll be interested in them and probably buy replacements from time to time."

A HARMLESS SUTTEE

We have long ago read of the Hindu custom of a widowed wife immolating herself on her dead husband's bier—but here is a less tragic sacrifice. Frances Krieger, writing from Argentina, tells:

"I thought of you the other day, while sipping tea in the library of the American Women's Club, here. I was glancing idly through a Japanese Pictorial Magazine and came across a startling item captioned in English, 'Doll Pyre.' The picture showed a group of Buddhist priests taking part in a strange cremation rite. Little girls were tossing old, worn out dolls on a pyre in a Temple courtyard in Tokyo at the annual ceremony held to 'console the hearts' of the broken dolls. Although later a new one was to be given in exchange, I judged from the sad expression of one youngster hugging her own, that she was probably thinking no new doll is as good as an old and loved one."

A Doll Book Review

The wide-spreading interest in collection dolls is paralleled by doll books that have been published in recent years. The latest of these is **Doll Stuff** by Elizabeth Andrews Fisher, and Kimport is pleased to offer it, signed by the author, at \$5.00 postpaid.

Mrs. Fisher is especially well equipped to publish a helpful doll volume. Her long successful editing of *Toy Trader* magazine, has brought her a wealth of doll lore, a practical knowledge of what collectors want and need and the answers to a multitude of questions. **Doll Stuff** is much more on the utilitarian than the romantic side of collecting and the "do it yourself" attitude of the times is furthered by patterns and technical detail that will delight many incipient doll makers. By creative handwork the love of dolls themselves will be enhanced and the hobby of collecting further popularized.

The most direct way to show the range of this 255 page book is to list the 45 titles of chapters. There is certainly something of interest in this group for everyone:

Cloth Dolls, Different Cloth Dolls, Cloth Dolls that Move, Corsets, Bread and Butter Dolls, Clothes, Making Faces, Papier Mache, How to Make Wax Dolls, Laminated Paper Masks, Odd Material Dolls, Apple Head Dolls, Cornhusk Dolls, Paper Dolls,

To Collect Dolls, Re-Waxing or How We Do It, Pouring a Wax Head, Formulae for Doll Heads, The Eyes Have It, From the Neck Down, How to Weave a Human Hair Wig, Mohair Wigs, Making a Mohair Wig, Doll Body, Doll Bodies That Fit, Patterns and Pattern Making.

Pressed Faces, How to Display Dolls, Suggestions for Displaying Dolls in Shops, Handmade Doll Stands and Seats, Suggestions on Merchandising, Consignment Contract, Payment for Work of Dolls, Doll Hospital Procedure for the Home Hospital, Restoration—How Much, Giving Lectures and Shows, Markings for Modern Dolls, Doll Labels and How to Use Them, Dolls In Girl Scouting, Hints on Dolling, Ceramics, You Too, Molds, Making Molds of Old Heads, Hints on Ceramics, Porcelain, Doller's Alphabet, Doll Room Drapes, Dust Ruffles, Doll Salad, Portrait Dolls, Museums — Ceramic Book List, Fashions, and Pictures.

The book, 5½ by 8½ inches is stoutly bound in board covers, a cheerful red in color. It is well printed and profusely illustrated with pen sketches, photo plates, old-fashioned style prints and simple working patterns. The edition is strictly limited and we already have our small quota, so we advise prompt ordering. An adequate doll library is a "must" for all serious collectors—And, those not so serious, too!

DOLL TALK**Editor, Ruby Short McKim**

A magazine in miniature, published for doll enthusiasts. Issued about every eight weeks.

Subscription is \$1.00 for one year.

Address:

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Independence, Mo.

DOLL TALK STEPS INTO DOLLAR CLASS

One hates to talk money when all wrapped up in the enthusiasm of editorial plans, and thoughts of better service to doll collectors, but rising costs require it.

Beginning now, the new subscription price of Doll Talk is a dollar a year (6 issues). Two dollars for two years (12 issues).

Our little magazine has been a bond of friendship between us and thousands of collectors. We sincerely hope the new rate will separate us from very few. To compensate, we'll more than ever try to cram each issue with helpful doll news, add to your enthusiasm over the doll hobby and be a wealth of information and inspiration in this field. When subscribing, you not only buy the most inexpensive little magazine published, but you open Kimport's door for answers to any inquiry, to start a search for the rarest of dolls, or just some warm hearted friends who like to share your letters and your problems!

NEW PRICE—STILL A GREAT VALUE!

MAKE A DATE NOW!

An elaborate showing of Kimport Dolls is being arranged this Spring for California. This will be held in the:

Art Needlework Dept.

THE EMPORIUM

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

JUNE 6 TO 11

There will be hundreds of imported dolls as well as a delightful array of American types . . . The section of antiques will be especially notable with most wanted dolls offered at reasonable prices. There will be dolls from a dollar for starters to rare values in the hundred dollar class for collectors.

Every Doll Priced For Sale

RUBY SHORT MCKIM will be at the show each day.

A happy P.S: June 15th the senior McKims, Arthur and Ruby, sail from San Francisco for a three month's cruise around the world. A dream come true!

FOND MEMORIES

Busy Marcia Ray, editor of Spinning Wheel magazine, still has time to think a bit about dolls, and while sending a little Christmas order to Kimport, remembered one Christmas a generation back. Gracious! Is that telling age secrets?

"Years and years ago, I bought a Pinocchio from you, I feel sure, for my children—Now this one is for my granddaughter! Doesn't time fly. Only Pinocchio doesn't change."

MISSIONARY HELPERS

We are quoting a letter from Mrs. Maxine Sickels of Iowa, as it is typical of the variety of inquiries that come to Kimport:

"Would you please send me whatever African doll or dolls you have available that would help convey a sense of reality to our missionary study of Africa in grades five and six. I have used my foreign dolls over and over in mission study. We sometimes build panoramas, using a doll for the beginning, and all sugar coated and unaware, they soak up a feeling for another group of people. It gives a closeness that words and pictures cannot convey."

In immediate response, we sent a small group of dolls imported from Africa. Perhaps you would like to know about some of the strange figures available from the Dark Continent, too.

A funny little, native crafted, idol type doll, came to us direct from Pietermaritz, capitol of Natal. The body has that Dior look, in fact, just a four inch, cloth covered cylinder one inch in diameter. With that as a starter, the doll-maker took off with wild abandon, using a gourd full of colored beads: first a head was made, with multiple rows of red beads, crowned by consecutive circles of red, yellow and white. Swank! The price is low for such a fetish. No. 103B, \$5.95.

African ebony carvings from Kenya are hand carved by primitive and unschooled tribesmen. These seven inch, solid carved women have a unique though scanty skirt of silver coils dangling from a wire belt which inci-



dentially is the only piece of clothing they own. No. 109A, \$5.95.

Swaziland Territory is one of the brightest jewels in Great Britain's crown. Gurki, No. 102S, a Swazi Youth in 4½ inch size is a chocolate brown plastic doll, but his fur and bead trim costume is really native handwork. Imported direct from Cape Town, price is just \$1.95

"Recently we had a Swiss lecturer on the Knife and Fork circuit, and I have been in Lucerne myself. However, at the time I was in Switzerland, I was unable to find one of these carved wooden dolls, so was delighted to find that you have them."

—Mrs. Neil Davidson, Oregon

CORRESPONDENCE CLIPPINGS

"I have subscribed to **Doll Talk** even longer than I have been collecting dolls. It is most helpful!"

—Flora Lehrmann, N.Y.

"At Doll Guild meeting I found some members sitting near to me knew nothing of **Doll Talk**—imagine that! Upshot of that confab, I brought home four rag dollars, so, enclosed is a check for the same." —Betsy Baldinger, Calif.

"I have taken over leadership of a Blue Bird Group, girls loving dolls as much as I. Often during the meets, some doll will go around and visit the girls as they work on their projects. Oh, you may be sure that we will be concocting lots of imaginative dolls this season—from frozen juice cans, inner tubes, paper bags, toothpaste boxes, etc. Fun! Fun!"

—Alma L. Wolfe, Md.

"Your information is being very helpful to me as a beginning doll collector. Since my husband's collecting interest is Civil War firearms, I'm counting on you to help correlate our hobbies."

—Mrs. Gerald Bennett, Maryland

"We hope this move will be our last one! However, my husband and two boys have been so sweetly indulgent about Mamma having her dolls unpacked and with her, even when we left dishes and kitchen things in storage, 'making do' with little furnished apartments, until the house is ready."

—Carlotta Best, Colo.

"I want you to know how much I enjoyed your dolls you brought to Pasadena. Several years ago I used to get your magazine but hesitated in buying sight unseen. After your lovely display, I'll hesitate no longer."

—Ruth Winkel, Calif.

"The baby marked 'Otto Ganz' has arrived and I am keeping him—though I think 'him' is a 'her'!" —Prudy Cole, Miss.

"I did see the beautiful doll exhibit at Sanger's and met Mr. McKim. Your selection of dolls was most impressive, and I can truthfully say that you do not misrepresent a single one of them in **Doll Talk**. In fact, they are more fascinating than you describe them!" —Mrs. Jack Benson, Texas

And a Kimport P.S.—saying that Mrs. Benson had another letter in, pronto, saying, "She's here! Our brand new girl baby, which will doubtless be another collector of dolls."

IN BROOKLYN

Any chance you'll be New York bound between March 3 and April 16? Miss Lillian Faffer, Curator of Dolls and Toys of the Brooklyn Children's Museum, announces that dating for their exhibit of Japanese Festival Dolls. Miss Faffer says:

"Several of the festival figures in the museum's collection date back to the time of the American Revolution; others are of the 19th and early 20th centuries. A complete set of black lacquered furniture with gold family crest is about fifty years old."

DOLL PRIMER: MONTANARI, ARISTOCRAT OF WAX DOLLS

"Will they crack? Will they melt?" Are the stock questions asked by those unfamiliar with wax dolls. Surely they will, if banged by children or set on a steam radiator! For that sort of treatment the Greiner, and Chase and Schoenhut dolls were made. In spite of being fragile, lovely wax dolls a hundred years and older, have survived in varying temperatures and climates. For sheer naturalness and beauty, the choice old wax dolls, a Montanari or a contemporary, is hard to excel.

Beeswax and tallow were available for modeling ever since man developed skill to sculpture. Wax figures of deities are found in the tombs of Egypt. Wax toys were fashioned by the Greeks and moulded profiles of wax were made in Rome. Europe of the 16th Century had wax dolls. Madame Tussaud of Paris, under duress, made wax portraits at the guillotine during the French Revolution and in horror fled to England in 1802 to set up her famous museum. It is thought perhaps the popularity of her show may have given a taste for wax figures to the London public because increasing numbers of sculptors and artists entered that field.

In any craft one name will dominate the rest and become the standard of excellence. "Montanari" is a name synonymous with beautiful wax dolls. More credit was once given the family perhaps than exclusively belonged to them. Trust our researchers to find vulnerable spots! Now we know that other dollmakers, even earlier than the Montanaris, made wax dolls with inset hair. But none quite came up to the great beauty, the exquisite modeling and the fine eyes and natural hair of the true Montanari dolls. We have never seen a marked Montanari and only heard of one. Dolls that approach that class are truthfully and conveniently called "Montanari type."

Wax dolls went through a natural evolution: The very earliest were solid wax, then wax poured into a mold to form a shell; next, wax coated on base metal, papier-mache and finally for economy, wax over composition. We call all the later "waxed" instead of wax dolls. The Montanari family always poured their wax for head and shoulders and achieved a beauty of color and feature that was superb. Every doll of theirs was an individual character study, hence expensive. They were in all ages from babies on—small and large. The hair of head and brow was inset, and beautiful glass eyes were always used. 1849 saw the first Montanari doll and for 37 years the family: Augusta, the artist mother, Napoleon, the sculptor father, and Richard, the talented son, produced a limited but famous line of wax dolls. This later was found by researchers in London Postoffice files, and the dolls themselves are distinguishable by the genius of their makers.

KIMPORT DOLLS,

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INDEPENDENCE, MO.